

Vax Facts

E-NEWS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

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Welcome!

Thanks for subscribing to Vax Facts, the North Carolina Immunization Branch's e-newsletter. We hope this will help us stay connected to immunization providers across North Carolina. Feel free to share this document with whomever you choose and encourage your colleagues to subscribe. Sign up instructions are at the end of this e-newsletter.

What's Going on at the Immunization Branch?

Vax Facts Going Quarterly

After this edition, Vax Facts will move to a quarterly distribution format. Important announcements will continue to reach your inboxes as they happen. You can also find news and alerts on the [Immunization Branch website](#).

2013 NC State Immunization Conference

Mark your calendars and start planning now for the 2013 North Carolina Immunization Conference. This year's theme is "The North Carolina Vaccine Circus – Juggling the Complexity of Immunizations." The conference will be July 31-Aug. 2 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. Guest speakers will include Dr. Ari Brown and Dr. Litjen (L.J.) Tan.

The conference registration fee this year is \$75 and the hotel cost is \$130 + tax/per night. To receive this hotel rate, you must register by June 30 and mention NC Statewide Immunization Conference 2013.

Remember, conference attendees earn continuing education credits by attending. More information including registration details will be available soon on the Immunization Branch website.

Now Playing on the Immunization Branch Website: Preparing for a Site Visit Module

Do you need to prepare for a site visit? Learn everything you need to know and ahead of the visit by watching the new [Preparing for a Site Visit Module](#) on the Immunization Branch website.

Need Continuing Education Credits?

Effective Jan. 1, the CDC requires that each North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) participant designate a Vaccines for Children (VFC) coordinator. The designated person is required to receive an educational contact during each calendar year. Educational contact opportunities cover all VFC requirements, with a special emphasis on storage and handling. Below are several opportunities in which credits can be obtained. For additional information about the NCIP Provider Education Requirements, please see the [memo dated Dec. 19](#), on the Immunization Branch website.

- Attend the 2013 North Carolina Immunization Conference (July 31-Aug. 2) in Greensboro.
- CDC's [VFC Requirements You Call the Shots](#) and [Storage and Handling You Call the Shots](#) online modules (both modules together count as one).

Coming in April: National Infant Immunization Week

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has designated April 20-27 as National Infant Immunization Week. More information can be found on the [Awareness Campaigns](#) section of the Immunization Branch Website.

Important Back to School Information

Kindergarteners: April marks the beginning of kindergarten pre-registration for many North Carolina schools. Parents will learn about immunization entry requirements and many will need to schedule appointments. Now is the time to run a request reminder report in the NCIR to identify upcoming kindergartners in need of vaccines.

Adolescents: Children entering 6th grade or those who have reached 12 years of age on or after August 1, 2008 must have a Tdap vaccine if five years or more have passed since their last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. Adolescents also should receive meningococcal, HPV, Hepatitis A, influenza and a second dose of varicella vaccine. These vaccines are not required in North Carolina, but they are recommended by the CDC.

College Students: Don't forget high school graduates going to college need three doses of DTaP (one of which must be Tdap), three doses of Polio, two doses of Measles, two doses of Mumps, one dose of Rubella and three doses of Hepatitis B to enter a college or university in North Carolina. Individual campuses may have additional requirements.

Immunization requirements for school entry can be found on our [website](#). You can order a free pocket guide from us which serves as a handy reminder. Visit our [Materials Request Page](#) to see additional items available for order.

Clinician's Corner

Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Prevnar 13

Pneumococcal disease is a serious illness that causes much sickness and death. In fact, it kills more people in the United States each year than all other vaccine-preventable diseases combined.

According to the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is estimated that in the United States in 2007, more than 40,000 cases and more than 4,000 deaths occurred from invasive pneumococcal diseases (bacteremia and meningitis). More than half of the cases occurred in adults who were recommended to receive pneumococcal vaccine. Children younger than age 5 and adults over than 65 have the highest incidence of serious disease.

In December 2011, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) expanded the age recommendation for the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prevnar 13, PCV13) to include adults ages 19 and older, who have immune-compromising conditions, such as HIV, diabetes or cancer. Prior to this change, the vaccine was solely for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

The ACIP recommends routine use of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-13 Prevnar 13) for adults aged ≥ 19 years with immunocompromising conditions, functional or anatomic asplenia, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leaks, or cochlear implants in addition to the 23-serotype polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax 23, PPSV23).

PVC13 can be co-administered with trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV), however, protection against influenza is reduced. PVC13 should not be given on the same day with PPSV23 vaccine. For those who need both, PVC13 should be given first, followed by PPSV23 eight weeks later.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the ACIP's recommendations. Please also refer to our [Coverage Criteria](#) to see if state vaccine is available for the updated ACIP recommendations for PCV-13.

Most Current VISs

As of March 1, the most recent versions of the [Vaccine Information Statements](#) (VIS) are as follows:

DTaP/DT	5/17/07	MMR	4/20/12
Hepatitis A	10/25/11	MMRV	5/21/10
Hepatitis B	2/12/12	PCV13	2/27/13
Hib	12/16/98	PPSV	10/6/09
HPV – Cervarix	5/3/11	Polio	11/8/11
HPV – Gardasil	2/22/12	Rabies	10/6/09
Influenza (inactive)	7/2/12	Rotavirus	12/6/10
Influenza (live)	7/2/12	Shingles	10/6/09
Japanese encephalitis	12/7/11	Td/Tdap	1/24/12
Meningococcal	10/14/11	Typhoid	5/29/12
Multi-vaccine (VIS) 11/16/12 (for 6 vaccines given to infants/children: DTaP, IPV, Hib, Hep B, PCV, RV)		Varicella	3/13/08
		Yellow fever	3/30/11

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Step Two: Respond to the system-generated confirmation email. Read this email carefully and follow the included instructions to complete the sign-up process. Please note, you must respond to this system-generated confirmation email within three days. The easiest way to complete the sign-up process is by simply replying to the confirmation email.

Step Three: Look for a system-generated welcome message. Once you receive this message, you are signed up to receive Vax Facts.

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